The Undergraduate.

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"SAM."*

BY JAMES A. GARFIELD.

Delivered before the Adelphic Union Exhibition on Wednesday Evening, July 19, 1855, and published in the Williams Quarterly of September, 1855.

'Twas noon of night, and by his flickering lamp
That gloated o'er his dingy room and damp
With glassy eye and haggard face there sat
A disappointed, worn-out Democrat.
His eloquence all wasted—plans all failed.
His spurious coin fast to the counter nailed.
Deception's self was now at length deceived,
His lies political, no more believed.

* * * * *

At length he rose in haste. "I have it now."
(A smile of joy lit up his darkened brow.)
"The people cast me off. I'll raise a storm,
I'll stir the nation with the cry 'reform,'
I'll tell them treason floats on every breeze,
And danger whispers in the sighing trees.
I'll call them gallant heroes, patriots, braves,
Defenders of their homes, their fathers' graves,
Me, they call the nation's Saviour then—
Then gold and office shall be mine again."
He gathered round him many of his kind,
Waste lumber, by all parties left behind.
They sat that night in council, and at morn,
When the stars grew dim, then "Sam" was born.

* * * * *

The alarm was sounded; over hill and dale
It flew upon the wings of every gale.
The granite mountains heard it and the plains
Of the wild West caught the awakening strains.
Freedom in peril! the great crisis comes!
Arouse ye millions; beat the signal drums!
Vengeance upon the mercenary brood
Of papal minions, pouring like a flood
Over fair Freedom's land, the Freedman's home!
Behold the swarming thousands as they come!
From lip to lip the startling rumor flies,
With ears erect and wide-distended eyes,
All eager listen to the growing tale,
Which gains new terrors from each passing gale.
The sturdy yeoman, in his midnight dream,
Saw the red flag of war, the sabre's gleam,
Heard the loud death-shriek, saw the assassin's stroke,
The pious layman saw in visions dire,
Th' Inquisitorial track, the martyr's fire.

* * * * *

The cry was raised, the people's voice went forth,
From Sacramento's sands to the far North,
"Sam's" army mustered, bold to war they go,
To fight, how manfully! their phantom foe.

* * * * *

War, to the knife, they cry, on Popery!
No foreigner oppressed shall hither flee.
Drive back the poor to homeless misery,
Who left the tyrant's land beyond the sea.

* * * * *

The storm grew darker; like a foaming tide
That drinks the mountain torrents in from either side,
So grew the people's wrath, which, with resistless force,
Swept down all party lines in its swift course,
And tossing on the foam-capped waves were seen
The struggling forms of what had lately been
Whigs, Democrats, Barnburners, Silver Greys,
Exploded fragments, all of other days.

* * * * *

"Sam's" aspirations grew; he longed to gain
Nebraska's wood-crowned height and Kansas' plain,
The rolling prairie, broad and wild and free,
An ocean of sweet flowers, a waving sea
Of verdure spread; from out its hallowed soil
He'd wring vile gold, bought by bondman's toil.

* * * * *

Unhappy "Sam!" that was his fatal day,
When 'gainst the slave his power did array;
When on the hands outstretched imploring aid,
He would have bound the chains himself had made.
Freemen then saw beneath his robes of light,
A fiend incarnate from the realms of night.

That was the rock on which the millions dashed,
And as a wave to foaming fury lashed
Thunders its rage against the rock-bound shore,
Then rolls away and with a sullen roar
Seeks its deep ocean caves; his gathered band
Poured murmuring away, and on the strand
Left *him*, in all his vileness there to lie,
Where *yet* he *gasps*, refusing still to die.

* "Sam" was a nick-name given to the American or Know-Nothing party, which was very popular at that time, and under whose auspices Fillmore ran for President. This party was opposed to all foreign influence and especially bitter against Roman Catholics. It is probable that the name "Sam" originated from Uncle Sam, because the party was distinctively American. One of their mottos was: "Put none but Americans on guard."—Lit. Ed. Concordiensis.

—*Concordiensis.*

MEN ARE TO US WHAT WE THINK OF THEM.

When two strangers are thrown together for a short time, each naturally and unwittingly forms an opinion of the other's character—his honor, candor, frankness, intellectual ability, capacity for enjoyment and various other traits. There comes up before the mind a picture, perhaps somewhat obscure in outline, but still, a real picture of what the man is thought to be.

This impression may be true or it may be false. More thorough acquaintance, however, if it does not prove it to be false, will bring it out in clear-

er and more unmistakable outlines until it seems an image true to life. And from it the mind will form judgments as to what will be the course of action pursued when the man is placed under given circumstances. From man's incapability of thoroughly knowing his fellow man these judgments may be unwarranted. But this does not affect the matter in hand. If I have formed my opinion of you, the question is settled, and you are to me and can be to me only what I think you to be, at least until my opinion is modified. That is to say, the extent to which a man is influenced by those around him depends largely upon himself, and each individual has the power of determining and does determine, to some extent, what his associates shall be to him.

He thus fixes in his own mind men's characters in relation to everything with which they have to do, be it general culture and refinement, literature, intellectual science and matters of philosophy, moral character or what not. For example, you have a very decided opinion of an author's style. If you have deliberately come to the conclusion that he is prosy and ambiguous, you may well expect to find him dull throughout his whole writings. If, perchance, you find a passage of merit, you look at it and detecting here and there a fault persuade yourself it too, is rather poorly put. On the other hand, if you have decided his style is bold and beautiful, exact and forcible, you will see true worth any way and cannot see a fault. Prof. Agassiz put forth the statement that the sponge is a vegetable. He was afterward convinced of his error, but still refused to correct his statement, saying, "It is a principle of my life never to take back anything I have said." This surely was folly, but we readily forgive him for it and remember him only as a great man, because we were taught from childhood to believe that he was a great man. And in general, when a man has gained a reputation, and we thoroughly recognize and appreciate his ability, we are in a condition to overlook a multitude of errors.

This tendency of ours so to judge men is due to the fact that concerning any attribute of his character that may come to our notice there will be two classes of influences at work in our minds, one to prove that in that particular he is praiseworthy and the other to show he is not.

Though these opinions of ours have very little or no influence upon others, they do produce a noticeable effect upon our minds. Harbor and brood over the idea, for example, that a man is unfit for a position for which he is named, and you work your mind up to such a pitch of hatred or jealousy that you entirely incapacitate yourself for appreciating or even recognizing the good there is in him. This was twice illustated at our last national election. Immediately after the Chicago convention the Democratic press and platform earnestly betook them to the task of searching old mouldy records to find what might be said against the man of that convention's choice. Garfield was basely scandalized and infamously abused. But he was elected and he lived long enough to show to the world his inestimable worth and to gain the respect, at least, even of those who had decried him. On the other hand, after Gen. Hancock's nomination the Republican organs in like manner began, and until after the election continued, to magnify and exaggerate and emphasize whatever could be said against him, and he too was represented as a man in the highest degree unfit for the presidency. He was defeated, and since his defeat has so conducted himself as to merit the admiration of the whole nation, exhibiting on every hand the characteristics of a genuine man. No doubt men in both parties came to believe the candidate of the opposing party to be a dishonest, scheming politician and that too mainly by overlooking all the noble qualities of the man and treasuring up what were or seemed to be his faults. By this course each party was unfitting itself for the duty of co-operating with and enjoying the administration, if its own man was not elected. And but for the marked wisdom

and integrity displayed in those four months of Garfield's anxious administration this unfitness would have lasted long and been an element of sore disturbance in the government. It will not be doubted, then, that man is responsible for what he is, if only from his having this power of so affecting his own mind simply by his inadvertent thoughts of others.

Now, as habits of thought as well as habits of action are inevitably formed and are quite as strong, it would be well if men would habituate themselves to thinking well of everybody. And, if we could cultivate a liking for every individual with whom we have to do, exactly in proportion as he deserves, our leniency and favor, as Talmage says, half the sin, sorrow and pain around us would be forgotten and our hearts would send up an orison to God for the good there is in the world.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

If we study the platforms of both the Republican and Democratic parties for the last few years, we find that whatever else was lacking, the principal plank was "Reform in the civil service." Each was loud in the declaration, if they had the power wonderful things would be accomplished. However grand and unselfish may have been their promises, when it came to fulfillment, it was the old story of fraud and corruption.

There was a time, many years ago, when, strange as it may seem to our poltical vision, men held office as a sacred trust to be used for the interests of the nation, not as a sinecure by which they could obtain wealth and influence for themselves and party. The spoils system was fully inaugurated when ihe infamous declaration of Jackson, "To the victors belong the spoils," gave it party sanction. A presidential election may result in a change in one hundred thousand office-holders. What an inducement to the party in power to retain this immense patronage; and what an incentive to the starving ones outside to get possession of the political loaves and fishes.

The most glaring evils resulting from this condition of affairs are machine politics and bossism. The development of the machine was slow, for public sentiment had to be educated to the point of voting as a few men dictated. As soon as the value of the machine became apparent, its managers began utilizing its strength for the benefit of themselves and friends. So when detection came, this influence was a shield against the sword of justice. The Credit Mobilier, Babcock Whiskey Ring, Tammany and last, but not least, the Star Routes, show how this power was exercised. History repeats itself, and if the past is any criterion of the future, ought we not to fear, lest a system which has produced such corruptions, will finally destroy the foundations of state, and bring ruin on the commonwealth.

The civil service as conducted at the present is a satire upon our free institutions. The fear of losing office compels men to do things they would condemn as wrong in others, yet are cloaked under the name of political expediency. Assessments are levied on all the employees to defray the expenses of election, and it is well known refusal means dismissal.

Patronage, the power to give and the power to take away office, has charms for all, and especially those who possess it. It is a direct infringement of the rights of the people, that the power of electing to office should be taken from the masses and given to the individual.

The sooner an election expresses the real voice of the people, and not the wish of a few politicians, the better for the country and government.

At the church convention held at Providence a few months since, one evening was spent in earnest discussion of the civil service. The three F's there enunciated: fitness for office, fixity of tenure, and freedom from partisanship, should be written in letters of fire on all the banners of reform. But as long as men seek office, and not the office them; as long as Senators and Repre-

sentatives use their power, not to promote the best interests of their constituents and the nation, but to engineer some Star Route bill through the House; as long as power is sought for the opportunities it presents of plundering the treasury under the name of appropriations; so long will reform be impossible, and the three F's be as unintelligible to the average politician as Hebrew to the savage. The Connecticut Civil Service Reform Association numbers among its members voters of both parties who believe in the election of the best men, irrespective of political creed. All through the States such associations are springing up, whose avowed purpose is purity in politics. Civil service is not, and cannot be successfully made a party issue. It concerns both parties equally, and only by their combined efforts can anything important be accomplished. On the wise solution and treatment of this great and important question depends the welfare and prosperity of the republic.

Arouse public sentiment to such a pitch that politicians dare not disregard it. Root out the system of appointments by politics and not by worth. Introduce competitive examinations. Conduct the civil service on true business principles. Take away the temptation to bribery by office. Keep the elections pure and unbiassed by wresting the power from the hands of the chiefs; and thus uninfluenced by the hope of promotion, or fear of dismissal as a reward or punisment, let every man vote as he pleases.

WORKS OF DISRAELI.

The works of Mr. Disraeli are of unequal merit, but they bear stamp of an original mind, of power far superior to the exhibition he cares to make of it in any of his works of fiction written by him. His "Vivian Grey" was written at the age of twenty-one. His "Contarini Fleming" is perhaps the best of his productions.—Madden, 1854, *Memoirs of the Countess of Blessington*, ii, p. 215.

A fantastic kind of Eastern exaggeration—the unpruned luxuriance of an Indian vine whose branches run over the wall—characterizes both the plots and the styles of Mr. Disraeli's works.—Collier, 1861, *History of English Literature*, p. 515.

They won for their author a certain renown. They took the town, and were everywhere talked of. They were accepted as very clever, brilliant novels, written more for the purpose of showing the views of a party, and for exhibiting the undoubted talent of their author, than for anything else.....Superfine reviews may condemn penny novels if they like; but we, who endeavor to be fair, must own that many of the cheap novels boast a purer style, and even tear passions into more effective tatters, when they do tear them, than does the Prime Minister..... As a man of letters, to us, we must openly confess Disraeli ranks but as a mediocrity; we admire his pluck, but we cannot wholly admire his novels.—Friswell, 1870, *Modern Men of Letters*.

One of the finest of modern prose-poems [Alroy.] There are, indeed, two objections which may be started to it: one, its form, which is too Frenchified, reminding you, in its short chapters, and abrupt transitions, and glancing hints of thought, of "Candide;" and the second (one which his biographer presses against him with all his might), the peculiar rhythm of the more ambitious passages, which makes parts of it seem hybrids between poetry and prose. But, after deducting these faults, the tale is one of uncommon interest. Some of the situations are thrilling to sublimity, and the language and imagery are intensely Oriental, and in general as felicitous as they are bold.—Gilfillan, *A Third Gallery of Portraits*, pp. 357–58.

In descriptive power, he is hardly surpassed by any living writer, and in the exposition of polities, social theories, and the illustration of real public life by means of fictitious personages and incidents, he is without a rival.—Cathcart, 1874, *Literary Reader*, p. 171.

The Undergraduate.

Published Monthly During the College Year.

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TERMS:

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Address all communications to THE UNDERGRADUATE, Middlebury, Vermont. No anonymous communications will be noticed.

EDITORIAL.

WE desire to tender our hearty thanks to alumni who have kindly answered our appeal for such information as would enable us to maintain a full personal column. Answer to our requests has been made almost entirely by those who were formerly connected with the UNDERGRADUATE as editors, and consequently by those who know from experience what satisfaction fills the heart of the editor when he receives an occasional letter assuring him of continued interest in the welfare of the college paper, and giving further evidence of this by kindly inclosing such information as will aid the editor and interest the reader.

THAT the privileges granted the students under the new reguations, of visiting the library daily from 12 to 2, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, is fully appreciated, is evidenced by the large attendance daily during the hours in which it is accessible. There is no doubt that the amount of reading done outside the text-books has been greatly increased by the new arrangement.

EVERY one seems to thoroughly enjoy the new ready room. Easy of access, comfortable and inviting, it claims a much larger portion of the students' spare time than did the old one. There seems, also, to be a marked improvement in the order maintained. We notice none of the disorders which were of such frequent occurrence in the old.

NOAH PORTER says that the mind is not satisfied by asking the *why* and *how* of a thing, but desires the answer to the question *what for* as well. Having implicit confidence in the wisdom of Porter we think, at this stage of the proceedings, it would not be irrelevant to ask what that stove is in the gymnasium for. A little seven-by-nine stove, which has never, to our knowledge, felt the genial warmth of a spark of fire, is not calculated to have any marked effect on the temperature of a room the size of our gymnasium.

IN a former issue we mentioned the fact that there was to be a change in reference to future annual examinations. At that time we were a little skeptical as to the truth of these reports. Nevertheless it seems that they were well founded, as in the future the Fall studies are not to be called up at the end of the college year. We understand this change was consented to by the Trustees on learning that the members of the faculty were unanimously in favor of it. This is a step in the right direction. The rigorous examination to which the students of this college are subjected at the end of the Fall term ought to furnish a sufficient test of their knowledge of the studies pursued during that term. Raking them up at annuals and obliging students to undergo a second examination seemed like imposing an unnecessary burden.

As we come together again, rested and invigorated by the holiday vacation, we feel that the college has lost a very important element. The old stone buildings, the campus, but chiefly the

boys wear a dejected air and "the customary suits of solemn black" would fail to make the mourning more apparent. We look in vain for the genial face of the old janitor, who for so many years has been distinguished for his fostering care of the college and never wavering loyalty to the "boys." How well do we remember tha friendly warning, "Run, yez divils, run!" as it came sounding up through the trees giving us plenty of time to escape from the scenes of our Sophomore scrapes. No man ever filled his delicate position so well as "Prof." Powell, always loved by the boys, always honored and respected by the faculty. No one ever evinced more faith in humanity. How many instances do we recall of his generous intercession in behalf of some luckless student who had fallen under the stern decree of college justice! "Prof." Powell by nature was endowed with peculiar gifts. Of warm sympathies, and large catholic views, he possessed that peculiar charm belonging to the genuine christian gentlemen. Had he enjoyed the discipline of mental culture, there is scarcely a position of trust or honor which he could not have filled and filled ably. But Providence ordered otherwise, and in so doing made Mr. P. the very prince of janitors. But mere words cannot express our feelings of regret as the old man lays down the scepter of his power and vanishes from the college world. A blessing from every student and alumnus follows the aged professor as he retires to the rest and quiet of his quiet home.

A word in recognition of the new janitor. Mr. Bolton. The turbulent Sophs have given him the customary initiation, and the good nature with which he bore the siege has already placed him on a friendly basis with the students. Let us wish him the best of success. and hope that the mantle of his predecessor may be his.

If any of our subscribers or advertisers fail to receive the UNDERGRADUATE, they will please communicate the same to the business manager, who will endeavor to set matters right.

COMMUNICATION.

[The editors do not assume responsibility for the sentiments of the Communication Column.]

"THE NEGRO AS A CITIZEN."

Editors of Undergraduate:

The Junior that writes on the above subject in your November number has a great deal to learn on that subject. It seems to us like a jumble of a little truth with a great deal of nonsense; and we are sorry that such utterances should be sent forth, even by the boys, from the halls of our venerable mother. Of the white man and the negro he says: "The result of the war has not essentially altered the relations of the two races." That is very strange. Before the war the one race owned the other, and bought and sold them like pigs and horses. Now each owns himself. That seems like something essential. The whites, we are told, were dependent upon the blacks for prosperity. That is very true in one sense. A noble mother here, whom everybody respects, raised fourteen children, all of whom and herself were sold on the block. "The last I heard from one of them," she remarked the other day, "a lovely girl, was that at fourteen she was sold at auction near Atlanta for fourteen hundred dollars." This was no uncommon thing in this region. The prosperity of the whites depended on the blacks just as that of western farmers depends on horses,—on their labor, their offspring and their bodies.

Then "the blacks were dependent on the whites for actual existence." That, too, is true in one sense, for many a colored man would never have existed but for some white man. Again the writer says: "By one stroke of the pen the principal wealth of the master has been swept away." No; the ownership has been changed. The property still remains, and much more valuable in every respect than before. Even the master is more profited by the free man as a laborer than the slave, and the country is much

enriched by emancipation. The best thinkers of this part of the country admit this.

But, when the writer says, "Better, far better, would have been the negro's condition to-day had he been left entirely alone to work out the problem of his own successful existence." We are puzzled. What does he mean? Would he be better as a slave? or in the ignorance and degradation in which emancipation found them? Or would he be better without the right to defend himself before the law, or to say who shall be the magistrate to judge? On all these points the truth of an affirmative answer is not apparent.

What the young writer says about social equality sought by the negro, and enforced by Northern power is nonsense. The negroes almost universally prefer social separation both in families, schools and churches. Social equality exists nowhere except among equals, and those of like tastes and sentiments. As to *political* rights, that is another question. This writer says the majority of the negroes have joined the Republican party, they cannot tell why. There he is entirely mistaken again. There is not one in a thousand that does not know what party gave him freedom. They, as a body, too, understand the interests of this country full as well as the millions of Roman Catholic Irish who exercise the elective franchise in the North, and who vote almost unanimously with the pro-slavery element of the South. Many would judge it a sore injustice to the negro to put him under the heel of the Irishman united with the worst element of the people among whom his lot is cast, and his destiny to be wrought out. Both these elements are fraught with danger to the country. To prevent the evils the North provides the free school and the free church; and if the South prove wise they will do the same.

But then your young Democrat says the negro is such a thief! He is no more a thief than other men untaught and uninfluenced by the gospel. The white man cheats a nogro out of a bale of cotton or his whole summer's labor, and he holds up his head as a gentleman. The black man steals a chicken or a pig, or a peck of corn, and he goes to the state prison. The one takes advantage of the darkness of the night, and the other that of the mind. But both are thieves in the sight of God, and the higher man the most guilty. Yet there are multitudes of honest men of both races all through the South, and property is safer here than in most places in the North where crowds of Irish Democrats and other foreigners reside. The people here leave their stables unlocked, their cattle in the field, the doors of their dwellings open much of the day, and often unlocked at night; baskets of cotton of the purest white, and wagon loads of it in the open fields out of the sight of the dwellings of men during the nights and over the Sabbath; their umbrellas at the door, and clothing of large households and boarding schools during the darkest and the brightest nights without a sense of danger. Can you do this in the North, especially near the highways, or near the towns and cities? I have often wondered how it could be that so little was stolen where so many needy people are found.

But we are told that good schools are furnished the negro by the state, but that he will not try to better his condition. Good schools in the South by the state! The statistics of Virginia show a school fund of less than $1.40 annually for each child of school age; South Carolina and Georgia less than Virginia, and North Carolina less than a dollar to each child. Sixteen years ago not one in a thousand of the negroes knew the alphabet, and scarcely a man among them was able to teach the five millions of freedmen how to read. But sixteen years have passed, and with the enormous sum of about a dollar and a quarter a head annually they have not all yet become educated! There would at least even yet be some risk in putting tbe names of adult men in a hat and drawing out successful well qualified teachers and ministers. Alas, for the stupidity of the ne-

gro! *They have had a fair trial!* We are sorry to have such thoughts go forth, even from the boys under training within the halls of our venerable mother.

Were not this letter already too long we would like to say something respecting the eagerness and capacity of the colored people to learn, and their rapid progress notwithstanding their great disadvantages. Fifteen years experience in teaching them enables us to know something about them. We have taught large and encouraging white schools both in the East and West, and we have never witnessed a more eager thirst for knowledge or more rapid progress in its attainment than among these people. And we have never been able to find the color line in these respects. The blackest have all the eagerness, and all the sprightliness of the whitest, many of whom are the reputed children of the best blood of the South. And these with faces as fair as our own, and probably as fair as that of the young writer of the article referred to, have all the vices of the blackest. The slave mark is seen everywhere; but it is found alike on the finest and the blackest.

L. D.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

THE CENTURY MAGAZINE may now be considered fully started on its way under the new name, and with the Midwinter number, which has the new cover design by Elihu Vedder, the name "Scribner's Monthly" is dropped as a subtitie. Its issues, since the change was made, have been commended by the press everywhere as of rare beauty and interest. The November number was said by the Providence Journal to be "the most able and valuable publication ever put forth in magazine form," while the Press pronounced it "unquestionably the most brilliant and striking, as it is the largest and most sumptuous, of anything yet known in American or European periodical literature-" The Springfield Republican called the December number, "for personal portraiture and biography, the richest single issue ever made by a magazine." The N. Y. Observer considers the January Century "an ideal number." The Charleston News and Courier, when the change in the name was made, declared that it would "be difficult to improve on Scribner's, already the first and best of American magazines." But the Graphic (N. Y.) recently said: "Take it all in all, The Century is already a better magazine than Scribner's ever was," and this is the general verdict. The increased excellence is not due to the change of name; it is only the natural growth of the magazine, made more conspicuous by the change.

With this growing excellence has come an increased sale. The average edition of the numbers of the last two volumes of Scribner's Monthly was 120,000; the average edition of the first four numbers of The Century is nearly 133,000. In England, 20,500 copies of November were sold, against an average of 16,230 for the twelve months preceding, and the sale of that number still continues there as well as here. In a recent issue of the Dumfries (Scotland) Advertiser, the rapid progress made by The Century among the reading public of the United Kingdom was ascribed to "the Anglo-Saxon spirit, as distinguished from the purely British or the purely American, that pervades its pages; it is much more American than it is British, but it is more Anglo-Saxon than either, and more representative of the race than of any of the various nationalities into which it has separated."

St. Nicholas has grown in England, from a circulation of 3000 copies a year ago, to a regular circulation now of 8000 to 10,000 monthly. It is not often that the London Times goes out of its way to compliment children's magazines, and American ones at that, but its issue of December 20, 1881, contained the following good words about the last bound volumes of St. Nicholas:

"There is an old song which sings how a certain venerable man delighted to pass the evening of his days in initiating his grandchild in the ex-

hilarating game of draughts, and how, so well did the lad profit by his instruction, that at last 'the old man was beaten by the boy.' In looking over the two parts of St. Nicholas, this old song has come back to us. Certainly the producers of such literature for our own boys and girls must look to their laurels. Both in the letterpress and the engravings these two volumes seem to us (though the admission touch our vanty or our patriotism, call it by which name we will, something closely) above anything we produce in the same line. The letterpress, while containing quite as large a power of attraction for young fancies, is so much more idea'd, so much less commonplace, altogether of a higher literary style than the average production of our annuals of the same class. And the pictures are often works of real art, not only as engravings, but as compositions of originel design."

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for January gives excellent promise for the coming year. It opens with an essay by Mr. Howells, entitled "Police Report," describing in Mr. Howells's most engaging style, incidents and reflections of two visits to a police court. The humane and sympathetic tone of the essay is no less noteworthy than its literary charm. Mr. Bishop's serial story is postponed to the February number, but Mr. Lathrop begins a story which will run through three or four numbers, "An Echo of Passion," the first installment of which is remarkably good, and indicates that it is to be one of the best stories the Atlantic has ever had. A very striking article is one by Rev. E. E. Hale, entitled "John Baptist at the Jordan." It is the first paper of a series on events in the life of Christ, and is intended to reproduce as faithfully and as graphically as may be the political, religious and social conditions of the people of Palestine at the time of Christ's coming. Mr. Hale has admirable skill in apprehending and presenting the historical aspects of any event or time, and the series promises to be one of quite remarkable interest and value. "Studies in the South" is the title of another thoroughly interesting article, which describes from close and accurate information the condition of affairs at the South; this paper, which is the first of a series, being given largely to what are known as the "moonshiners." It is written by the auther of "Certain Dangerous Tendencies," and he aims to report with perfect fidelity the situation and sentiments of the South as he saw them. A striking short story is "And Joe," by S. A. L. E. M. Elizabeth Robins contributes a very interesting article on "Hindu Humor." Mr. A. Granville Bradley, son of the new Dean of Westminster, writes on the "Prominence of Athleticism in England." H. H. describes in her own charming way "A Midsummer Fete in the Peublo of San Juan." The poetry of the number is by J. J. Piatt, J. T. Trobridge and Edith M. Thomas. There are reviews of several important new books, and an interesting Contributor's Club. The magazine opens the new year with fine promise, and when we remember that there are to be serial stories by Thomas Hardy and Elizabeth Stuart Phelps in the course of the year, we need add nothing to enlist the interest of our readers.

NEW BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.—An excellent feature of the New Edition of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, just issued, is the New Biographical Dictionary, in which are given the names of nearly ten thousand noted persons of ancient and modern times, with a brief statement of the dates of their birth and death, their nationality, profession, etc. This is designed for purposes of ready reference, to answer the questions which often arise as to when and where certain persons lived, and the character of their achievements. It contains many names of persons who are still living, and the pronunciation of each name is given.

EXCHANGES.

It is true that the eloquence of the exchange column usually falls unheeded on the inattentive ears of the exchange editors, unless they are

personally interested. Often and justly indeed exchanges are regarded as synonymous with dullness; and only read from a sense of duty, to see if some poor unfortunate has been rash enough to venture on a criticism of that particularly fine article in the last issue. And if any one dares even to hint that it is rather dry, what an outburst. From the nature of his task, the exchange man is brought into closer intimacy with other papers, and from his lofty eminence he lays down journalistic ethics for the college world, and then wonders at their non-acceptance. What a power he possesses in his own estimation! How boldly he attacks distant publications and mutilates their best productions. How indignant at any censure of his beloved paper, no matter how dry and uninteresting it may be. One would think by the perusal of some of our exchanges, that they regarded themselves as the criterion of college journalism, and everything not conforming to that standard should be condemned. They entirely overlook the fact, that what made their paper a success, would perhaps kill another, and vice versa. Every college has an individuality that should be expressed by its paper as the representative of that college; and with an independence unmoved by idle fault-finding.

Scientists predict that '82 will be noted for its wonderful astronomical combinations and phenomena. So the discovery of a dazzling *Comet* by C. C. N. Y. need cause no uneasiness. It was first observed in December, '81, and is thought to have been attracted into its present orbit by the disturbing influence of *Mercury*. We have never before had the pleasure of a personal examination of a *Comet*. But if all our experiences in the future are as pleasant as this, we hope they will be often repeated. We cannot better express the sentiment of the paper, than by quoting from the editorial.

"Our object is simply to provide this college with a journal, light and chatty. While we will do all in our power to encourage literary efforts, yet will we pretend to no learned excellence. To provide mirth and good humor; to encourage in every way all college enterprises, athletic and literary; in fine to increase in every manner class and college spirit; these are our objects in publishing this journal."

The *North Western* rejoices in a new cover and general enlargement. The subject of base ball is agitating the western colleges just at present, and N. W. U. seems to have set the ball rolling. The literary articles possess the merit of variety, and for their kind are very good. The innocent Sub-Freshman sought to rest his weary feet by gently drawing them across the floor, and brought down on himself the swift displeasure of the Prof., who threatens the unfortunate with expulsion. If that is the experience Freshmen have to undergo before they enter N. W. U., no wonder they are a model class. Something almost unknown in the East, but of peculiar interest to the Western student, are eeclamation contests, which might be profitably introduced in the colleges of New England. As it is, every college has it sinstructor who is apt to unconsciously fall into ruts and styles of speaking. In a general contest the different drills are contrasted, and criticisms made that will prove invaluable in the future. The locals and exchanges are well conducted, and some of the ancient college jokes are conspicuous from their absence.

The *Trinity Tablet* issues a supplement headed "Great rejoicing! Six cuts from chapel!" At last, after years of waiting, and column after column of editorials and communications, the faculty has granted their prayer, and hereafter six cuts a week are permitted. The Index to Vol. XIV. is very handy, and we notice a growing custom among the exchanges, to fuanish an Index with the last number of the year. The editors evidently believe in the saw, last but not least, for they have succeeded in making their last issue the best. The cartoon illustrating the principal events of '81 is decidedly picturesque and suggestive. "A Pseudo Science," is an amusing

account of a sell on a Senior who could not take a joke. While the pathos of "Evening Chapel" would almost melt the statue to tears. The retiring editors are to be congratulated on the success of their labors, and at the same time we extend a hand of welcome to the incoming board.

PERSONALS.

The Alumni are requested to forward any information relative to former students at Middlebury which it may chance to be in their power to furnish.

'15. Hon. Isaac Parker, an ex-Judge of East Coventry, is now nearly 92 years of age. He is severely afflicted with vertigo and is quite deaf. His vision is so dim that he cannot read.

'34. Rev. J. B. Clark of the Home Missionary Society preached at the Edwards church, Northampton, Mass., Christmas day.

'40. Hon. E. J. Phelps of Burlington is one of the counsel for the old board of directors in the suit against the Brandon National Bank, at Brandon before Judge Veazey.

Ex-Gov. Stewart '46, Hon. A. F. Walker '62, are counsel for the Brandon Bank in its suit against the old directors.

Ex-Gov. Stewart '46, T. H. McLeod '54, L. D. Eldredge '57, J. M. Slade '67, Chas. M. Wilds '75, attended the funeral of Chief Justice Pierpoint at Vergennes.

'41. Rev. Luke Dorland is superintendent of Scotia Seminary, Concord, N. C., and secretary and treasurer of Biddle University, Charlotte, N. C.

'43. Samuel W. Bates, a prominent member of the Suffolk (Mass.) bar is dead. Deceased was the youngest son of Rev. Joshua Bates, D. D., formerly President of this college. His main legal business was in connection with railroads.

'51. Solon Albee, formerly Professor of Latin, is in town with his family.

'57. Judge Dunton of Rutland has been chosen one of the directors of the Baxter Natianal Bank of that place.

'57. Representative McCoid has introduced into the House of Representatives an apportionment bill based upon the method of computation used by Col. Seaton, Superintendent of the Census Bureau.

'57. Rev. A. W. Wild has been dismissed from his pastorate in Peacham. The charges against him were not sustained. He has gone to St. Johnsbury; where he has in view the education of his children.

'58. Hon. Stephen A. Walker was recently re-elected President of the Board of Education of this city for the year 1882 by a unanimous vote. There could not be a more full and gratifying answer to the brutal attacks upon his official management while at the head of the school system which, during his canvass for the Surrogateship at the last election were made upon him by the Tammany organs. Civil service reform has taken practical root in this department at least of our city government.—*N. Y. World.*

'60. At the fifth annual meeting of the Illinois State Bar Association at Springfield, January 5th, the President, Hon. E. B. Sherman, delivered the annual address. The above named gentleman is Secretary of the organization in Chicago known as "Sons of Vermont."

'64. Hon. J. K. Batchelder, formerly State's Attorney of Bennington County, completed his argument for the State in the Fuller murder case January 9th. It was said to be the most powerful argument that has been made in the county for many years.

'66. Abner Smith, a successful lawyer, is one of the notable Vermonters in Chicago.

'68. Rev. Joel Whitney, who was for several years a missionary to Micronesia, a distant island in the Pacific ocean, has returned to his home at Wadhams Mills, N. Y., where he officiates as pastor of the Congregational church.

'69. J. H. Parker is pastor of the first Congregational church of Peoria, Ill. This is the largest and wealthiest church in the city.

'69. F. D. Mussey, well known as a lively journalist in this State and largely known at the West, is to marry the daughter of Gov. Charles Foster of Ohio, whose private secretary he has been for many years.

'74. Rev. T. W. Darling was ordained pastor of the Congregational church of Wentworth, N. H. October 21st, 1881.

'75. Charles M. Wilds, by invitation, addressed the Vermont Merino Sheep Breeders' Association at Middlebury recently in behalf of Mr. George T. Dimmick of Cornwall, who was

expelled from the association in the fall of 1880.

'76. The spring term of Black River Academy at Ludlow, begins February 27th, C. G. Farwell, Principal.

'76. Rev. William Remele is in town for a vacation, because of ill health. He will return to North Pomfret in about two months to resume his labors.

'76. Charles M. Prynne has been advanced to the position of literary editor on the Springfield Republican.

'76. William W. Gay has returned to the Springfield Republican as telegraph editor.

'77. B. F. Weld is Secretary of the Vermont College of Teachers, which meets at Montpelier, February 3d.

'77. Dr. C. B. Warner was in town a few days since.

'77. The firm of H. P. Churchill & Co., bankers, of which H. P. Stimson is junior member, is about to organize a National Bank in Cawker, Kansas.

'77. James M. Gifford, a law student of New York city, was at New Haven during the holidays.

'78. Married recently at Bennington Center, by Rev. Mr. Jennings, William H. Shaw and Miss Katie Robinson. Mr. Shaw is now the popular principal of the Wallingford graded school.

'80. S. B. Cady is at the Thayer School of Civil Engineering. He will graduate in May, when he is likely to go West to fill a good position as civil engineer, which has been offered him.

'80. Henry R. Dorr is now running special departments on the Sprinfield Republican.

'80. W. A. Guernsey is General Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association in Cumberland, Maryland.

'81. F. R. Utley, formerly of the Wallingford graded school, has commenced his second year at Fair Haven with a full school.

'84. Charles Billings has returned to his class this term.

'85. H. J. Vosburg of Stuyvesant Falls has entered the Freshman class this term.

TOWN AND CAMPUS.

One new Freshman.

No laboratory work this term.

The new catalogue is in press.

Mr. Bolton succeeds Janitor Powell.

The Freshmen got the first bolt of the term.

Ex-Professor Albee is in town, the guest of Prof. Parker.

The organ has been moved into the Philosophical room.

F. A. Bond has connected his house and store by telephones.

Preparations are being made for a sheet and pillow case party.

The Freshmen made a very creditable *dcbut* on the college stage.

Quite a number of the alumni were in town during the holidays.

A radical change has been made in the order of recitations for the winter term.

More students are rooming down town this term than for some time before.

Sheldon ('83) met with an accident while skating recently. but no serious results followed.

Sleighing this winter is a farce, but the student rejoiceth when he surveys his pocket book.

The reading by Prof. Churchill, the 25th, in academy hall was very fine and drew a full house.

The Baptist Society have purchased a site for a church and will commence building in the spring.

President Hamlin takes the Sophomores in French and Prof. Austin the Freshmen in Geometry.

Mr. P. F. Chapman has left the firm of Farnsworth & Chapman. The firm name is now Farnsworth & Co.

The first "chip and hungry" of the season was held at Negus' Hall the 25th, and a most enjoyable party is reported.

A large number of students and town's people attended "Patience" at the Howard Opera House, Burlington.

The news of the conviction of Guiteau caused considerable rejoicing here. Henry Sheldon raised a flag on his block on receipt of the news.

We would mildly suggest to the new janitor the advisability of starting his fires in season in order to better warm the recitation rooms, at least

in the morning when the students come in cold and have to sit and shiver for an hour.

The bell and chapel doors were subject to an attack of their chronic difficulty soon after the new janitor assumed his badge of office.

The Philosophical room has a new stove and the Rhetorical room has been re-modelled and the platform placed at one end, leaving the side clear for blackboard work.

The temperance movement is booming here at present. The "Citizens League for the Suppression of Crime" has been organized with Prof. W. H. Parker president and Prof. H. M. Seely chairman of the executive committee.

The day of prayer for colleges was duly observed. The regular college exercises were omitted, and religious exercises were held in the chapel at 10;30 A. M. Remarks were made by the President and Professors Brainerd and Higley.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Clay celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their married life by a silver wedding, Friday eve, the 4th inst. The house was crowded; all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the presents were numerous and elegant.

A course of lectures are to be given by the Faculty alternate Fridays. The first was by the President the 20th; subject, "The advancement of science." It was a scholarly review of scientific advance during the lifetime of the speaker. Prof. Seely delivers the second in the course Friday, the 3d prox., on "Bread."

COLLEGE NOTES.

There are 150 college papers in the United States.

Yale's receipts from the Thanksgiving game were $1,404.

The new Secretary of State, Frelinghuysen, is a graduate of Rutgers.

The fund for the rebuilding of Swarthmore College has reached $73,000.

A projected cremation at Williams was recently suppressed by the faculty.

English Universities have no college papers published by students.—Ex.

The University of Michigan has a course of Sunday afternoon lectures.

Of Harvard's valedictorians for the last fifty years, not one used tobacco.

The faculty at Williams have decided not to allow the Nine to join the League.

An American took the first prize in Mathematics, at the University of Heidelberg.

The University of Rochester lost some $500 of property by the Hallow-e'n celebration.

The Greek play *Antigone* will be brought on the stage at Toronto University this winter.

About four per cent. of the students at Harvard class themselves as agnostics or atheists.

The average expense for each member of the graduating class at Yale is $3825 for the whole course.

Cambridge University this year, says the Argo, has the largest Freshman class she has ever known—835.

The first national college for the education of ladies in France, has been opened by M. Ferry in person, at Montpelier.

Smith College has opened an art school. The instructors of the Yale School of Arts make weekly trips thither to lecture and teach.—Ex.

It is said that the only Professor of Political Economy of any college in America who is opposed to Free Trade is Prof. Robert E. Thompson, of the University of Pennsylvania.—Echo.

The Trustees of Rutgers have passed a resolution recommending that the faculty take measures to prevent the students from wasting time in such things as athletic sports, boating, glee clubs, etc.—Ex.

The highest of German orders, *pour le merite*, vacant by the death of Thomas Carlyle, has been bestowed by the Emperor upon Protessor W. D. Whitney of Yale, in recognition of his services to the study of Philology.

It is said there is a movement afoot among the Germans in the United States, for the erection of a native nniversity, on the model of that at Berlin. Milwaukee is mentioned as the proposed seat of such university.—Ex.

In his report to the Trustees of Princeton College a few weeks ago, President McCosh calls attention to the extravagant amount of time and attention given to physical culture, and to the falling off in the number of graduates entering the ministry.

Great interest has been aroused at Bowdoin College by the suit brought against eight students for $10,000 each for damages to a fellow-student, whose eyesight was nearly destroyed by their wanton "hazing." The entire Sophomore class, and probably the whole college, will be summoned as witnesses. The trial will be held in January by the Supreme Court of the county.—Ex.

At English universities the members of the four classes are known as Freshmen, Junior Sophisters, Senior Sophisters and Questioners. In early colonial days it was supposed that the fourth class at the American colleges scarcely more than equalled in grade the third class at English colleges, and the name of "Junior Sophister" was therefore applied to the third class, and that of "Senior Sophister" to the fourth class. It did not take long for these names to contract into "Junior" and "Senior."—Varsity.

PLUNDER.

How did Queen Elizabeth take her prescriptions? In cider.

The close shorn Soph blushed violently when the choir sang: "Cover my defenceless head."

Sophomore to sleepy room-mate—"Come, S., why don't you get up with the lark, as I do?" S., grimly—"Been up with him all night!"—Ex.

Ding doug, darn it, goes the chapel bell,
Making all who hear it feel like ——— well.
One shouldn't always say exactly what he feels,
But tumble out of bed, when the chapel warning peals.

Prof.—"Now, Mr. C., if this experiment proves successful, what will the result be?"

Mr. C.—"The result? Oh, the result will be *inevitable!*"

A SMITTEN DEAR.—Your proposal to exchange photographs with the editors is declined with sadness. Our liknesses have been so fearfully exact that we are extremely wary how they get abroad.—Academica.

There was a young fellow named Wilde,
Whose manner was yearning and mild,
He sailed o'er the ocean,
Which raised no commotian
On account of this tender young child.

Why shouldn't babies be given the right to choose their own names? Girl babies in many cases have the privilege after a time; but give a boy a bad name and the chances are that unless he goes on the stage or becomes a master at Upper Canada College, it sticks to him for life.—Varsity.

How did she know it? They were returning from a yachting party in a fog. He (trying to keep up a conversation)—"How wet this fog makes my mustache!" She—"Yes, so it does." Utter collapse of further conversation.—Ex.

SKATING.

Mother, may I go out to skate?
Yes, my darling Julia,
But don't you try the figure 8,
For it will surely fool you.
Just as you make the lightning whirl
To show your springy muscle,
The boys will see a foolish girl
Sleigh-riding on her bustle.

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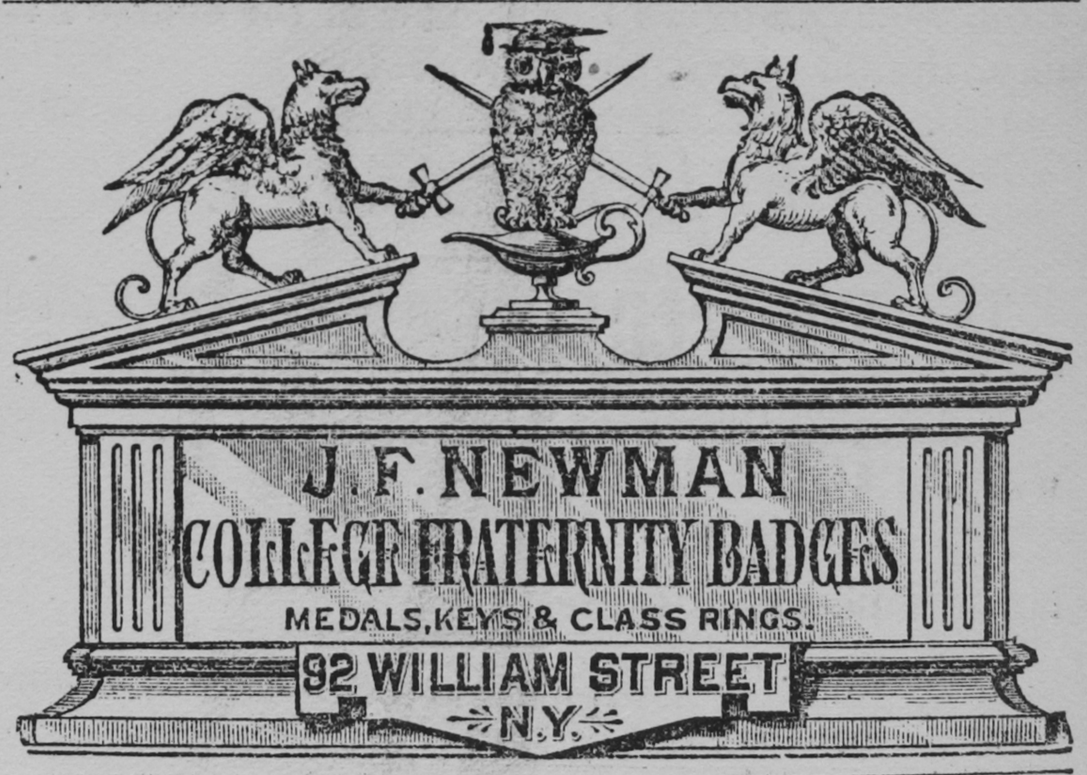

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